SHANDA FANTASY ARTS

23 JAN 2001

$2.99

Mature Readers

Carole Curtis

Katmandu

'01 Fisher!

The INNER CIRCLE

THE SHANDA FANTASY ARTS CREW

CAROLE CURTIS
EDITOR IN CHIEF

MEL WHITE
ACQUISITIONS EDITOR

RICHARD THATCHER
CONVENTION CO-ORDINATOR

PAUL SEID
COMPUTER WIZARD

ROBERT TEAGUE
WORDSMITH

SHANE FISHER
ART DIRECTOR

VALLIANT VARMINT
FINANCIAL ANGEL

BOYCE GARALD KLINE JR.
HEAD OF SALES

ED GARCIA
CHARLES GRAY
MIKE OXLEY
DEBRA COLVIN
PRODUCTION STAFF

JOANNE KLINE
TRAVEL AGENT

JUSTIN BAGSDALE
JONAS SILVER
SEAN OSBORN
WEBMASTERS

BROCK HOAGLAND
MATT McCULLAR
STEVE CORBETT
TED VOLLMER
CONVENTION STAFF

MIKE CURTIS
CHIPMUNK MASSUSE

Lots of news this time.

You may have already seen the ads....the famous Charlton superhero is coming back through our pages. SFA'S ATOMIC MOUSE debuts in SFA SPOTLIGHT 11 this May, and then hopefully onto his own comic.

Carole is fighting breast cancer. She had a double mastectomy two weeks ago and is scheduled for chemo and radiation. Carole is still functioning as writer of KATMANDU and editor of the comics line, but we need help.

Enter Mel White on a white horse.

She needs no introduction to most of our readers, having a long literary history in furry fandom. She is assuming the job of ACQUISITIONS EDITOR, to seek out new life forms and new civilizations...no that's not right. She'll be looking for talented folks to contribute to NEW HORIZONS (general furry), MAGIC CARPET (children's furry), FANTASTIC FURRY STORIES (all text), and our new adult anthology coming this fall, WILD ORCHIDS.

If you have some stories or art to submit, you can contact Mel at mel@coyotedancing.com

See you in the funny papers!

Mike and Carole

This book is published by SHANDA FANTASY ARTS PO BOX 545 GREENBRIER ARK 72058 shandafa@cyberback.com All characters are copyrighted 2001 by their respective creators. All art and stories are copyright their respective creators. Nothing from this book may be reproduced without the express written permission of the copyright holders except for short excerpts for advertising, review and promotion. No similarity to any person place or thing is intended and any similarity is purely coincidental. Printed atMorgan Printing by that nemesis of evil Toni.

Katmandu

ENDINGS AND BEGINNINGS

PART TWO

THORIN AND LEATRAH ARE VACATIONING AT THE HOT SPRINGS RESORT OF CRATER LAKE.

YOU'VE GOT THREE ALREADY AND MORE COMING?

HOW SOON?

ABOUT TWO MONTHS LONGER. I'LL BE GLAD TOO!

MY HUSBAND'S SO LARGE, THE KITTENS ARE BIGGER THAN NORMAL.

STORY BY: CAROLE CURTIS
BACKUP STORY: SHAWNTAE HOWARD
PENCILS: SHAWNTAE HOWARD
INKS: ED GARCIA, DEBRA COLVIN.
LETTERS:CHARLES GRAY

THAT'S HIM?

QUITE A HUNK! HOW'D YOU MEET?

A LONG STORY. HE WAS WOUNDED IN A BATTLE AND I TREATED HIM.

GOOD MORNING'S SWIM!

NOW, YOU SAID THAT LISKA AND HESTA WERE RIDING TO MEET THE BURNT TREE TRIBE TO GET MEDICINE FOR PYNDAN.

WELL-

IS THAT **REALLY** NECESSARY, HESTA?

I TOLD YOU I COULDN'T COOK.

IT HAS TO BE DONE, LISKA,

AS LONG AS THIS FOOD IS CLOSE, PREDATORS WILL EITHER TRY TO KILL WHAT EVER SMELLS THAT BAD OR PREY WILL STAY FAR AWAY AND WE'LL STARVE.

DIDN'T THAT WIFE OF YOURS FIX US ANY PROVISIONS?

SHE DIDN'T HAVE TIME FOR MUCH.

CORN FRYBREAD A WHOLE SACK FULL.

BETTER THAN NOTHING.

WE'RE NOT FAR FROM

COR-MAC-DEN'S CAMP. IF OUR LIZARDS REST A BIT

LONGER WE COULD BE THERE BY SUN UP.

SOUND'S GOOD. WE'LL GET THE HERBS FOR PYNDAN AND HEAD BACK.

"SNIFF"

GONNA SLEEP?

I'LL SLEEP WHEN PYNDAN'S FEVER BREAKS.

GIT!

MOUNT UP AND I'LL GET BACK TO MY STORY...

"AFTER OUR MOTHER THREW US OUT, I APPRENTICED MYSELF TO A TRADER..."

PEPPER GIVES ME **TEN** CROWNS FOR THAT MANY FURS!

HE ISN'T HERE AND **I'M** IN CHARGE! YOU'VE GOT 3 GOOD FURS AND TWO I WOULDN'T USE FOR THROW RUGS!

HE **ALWAYS** BUYS THOSE!

LOOK AROUND.

NONE OF THOSE SKUNK FURS HERE. PEPPER DOESN'T BUY THEM.

IF I DID I WOULDN'T BE HIS APPRENTICE ANY MORE.

PEPPER'LL SKIN YOU AND SELL **YOUR** FUR.

IT'D TAKE TWENTY OF YOU!

IS HE GONE, HESTA?

YEP, RADWIN. THAT MANGY CAT WAS TRYING TO SKIN ME.

WE CAN'T SELL SKUNKY FURS AND WE WON'T **TAKE** ANY.

ARE YOU SURE PEPPER WON'T GET MAD?

NOT A CHANCE.

WE'VE TAKEN IN A LOT WHILE HE'S BEEN ON THIS TRIP.

HESTA- I THINK HE'S COMING BACK.

SIR ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

FINE, LITTLE GIRL. IT TAKES MORE THAN A HERNDON FALLING ON ME TO KEEP ME FROM COMING HOME.

"OH YES. I FORGOT TO MENTION MY SISTER WAS SWEET ON THE TRADER I WAS APPRENTICED TO."

I BROUGHT YOU A BRACELET.

OOH! THANK YOU SIR!

A HERNDON, EH? WHAT WERE YOU DOING UNDER IT?

TRYING TO GET **OVER** IT. I'LL JUST SIT HERE FOR A MOMENT. MY RIBS HURT.

HOW BADLY ARE YOU HURT?

NOT BAD, BUT NOW THAT I'M HOME-

-I WON'T BE HEALED FOR A MOON. BUT THERE'RE FURS TO SELL AND BUY.

DO I MAKE MY FIRST ROAD TRIP?

YEP. WE'LL PLAN IT AFTER DINNER. I **HOPE** YOUR SISTER HAS SOMETHING GOOD COOKING?

"I WAS VERY EXCITED! I'D WORKED FOR PEPPER THREE YEARS, AND THIS WAS A BIG STEP. WE SPENT THE EVENING GOING OVER MY ROUTE STOP BY STOP."

"I WISH YOU COULD HAVE SEEN ME, LISKA. PEPPER HAD HIS CARRY LIZARD PACKED UP WITH TRADE GOODS."

"HE TRUSTED ME TO BUY FURS FOR HIS BUSINESS!"

"I WASN'T WORRIED ABOUT RADWIN-- PEPPER LIKED HER COOKING AND SHE LIKED HIM."

"I HAD A LONG LIST OF PLACES TO VISIT- AT EACH STOP THERE WAS A TRADING POST AND PEPPER WAS EXPECTED FOR FUR BUYING."

"IT WAS ROUGH OUT ON THE ROAD. I COULD BE STERN IN OUR VILLE, BECAUSE OTHER MERCHANTS WERE WITHIN SHOUTING DISTANCE. HERE IT WAS JUST **ME**!

I WAS CAREFUL & DID WELL"

"MY THIRD WEEK OUT, BUZZARDS ATTRACTED MY ATTENTION."

"IT WAS AN UNCONSCIOUS TRAVELER. HE MUST HAVE BEEN AMBUSHED, FOR THERE WAS NO MOUNT AROUND.

HE TOOK SOME WATER THEN WAS OUT AGAIN."

"IT WAS A GOOD THING TANAMEME WAS SO WELL-TRAINED. I TIED HIM WITH A ROPE, THEN WE GOT HIM UP AND ON HER BACK. WE WENT TO THE NEXT POST."

"THE TRADER HAD A VELITE SLAVE WITH HEALING SKILLS. I PAID TO HAVE HER TEND HIS WOUNDS. LUCKILY, THEY WEREN'T SERIOUS."

"I WAS AHEAD ON MY STOPS, SO I TOOK A DAY OFF, STAYING AT THE TRADING POST. THIS GAVE HIM TIME FOR HEALING, AND ME TIME TO FIND OUT ABOUT HIM."

HE SAID HIS NAME WAS TYJER SIBER. HE WAS A PRINCE, OUTCAST BY HIS FATHER, AND BROUGHT HERE BY FORCES HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND.

I'D **NEVER** HEARD OF THE LAND HE WAS FROM, AND TRAVELERS CAME FROM ALL OVER TO PEPPER'S--

-- **BUT** HE WAS COMELY, AND WARM TO SLEEP NEXT TO

"TYJER DIDN'T HAVE ANYWHERE TO GO, SO I INVITED HIM TO TAG ALONG ON MY ROUTE."

"FOR A PRINCE, HE SURE COULD WORK. HE DIDN'T TRY TO RUN THINGS, OR INTERFERE WITH MY TRADING. AND I DIDN'T HAVE TO LOAD AND UNLOAD TANAMEME BY MYSELF."

"WITH HIS HELP, I WAS GETTING DONE FASTER AND HAD MORE FREE TIME. SO I GOT HIM TO TEACH ME THE ART OF THE SPEAR."

"I KNEW HOW TO THROW A KNIFE, BUT I LIKED THE SPEAR BETTER."

"DURING THE NEXT THREE WEEKS, WE RUSHED THROUGH EACH DAYS TRADING SO WE COULD PRACTICE."

"AS MY TRAVELS DREW TO A CLOSE, I FOUND MYSELF SADDENED. I'D ENJOYED THE TRADING AND DIFFERENT SIGHTS. I WAS ALSO DRAWING CLOSER TO TYJER."

"AT OUR LAST STOP, I TOLD HIM I *MUST* HEAD HOME, BACK TO MY SISTER AND APPRENTICESHIP. I DIDN'T HAVE A HOME OF MY OWN TO INVITE HIM TO. I FELT ASHAMED."

"TYJER SENSED MY DISCOMFORT. HE SAID HE WOULD CONTINUE TRAVELING-- AS A GUARD WITH A CARAVAN GOING TO UXMAL. HE WOULD JOIN THEM TOMORROW."

"THE MOON WAS HIGH THE NEXT EVENING, WHEN I SAW PEPPER'S HOUSE. I FELT VERY ALONE."

"i DIDN'T LIGHT A CANDLE UNTIL I WENT INTO THE BACK ROOM TO LAY DOWN."

WELCOME BACK, HESTA.

HELLO, SISTER.

--SOME WELCOME HOME--

CONT.

Katmandu

the WAITING

"HE WHO FEARS BEING CONQUERED IS SURE OF DEFEAT"
-N POLEON BONAPARTE

STORY BY
CAROL OSMAN

ART BY
CHARLES ETTINGER

SHAYGIN! BETTER CLOSE THAT FLAP!

BRRR! I WISH THOSE WILD LIZARDS WEREN'T SCREECHING!

WELL, RIAL **SAID** HE'D BE BACK BY FIRST LIGHT.

GET ENOUGH BECCA MEAT?

EH-IT'S SO DRY. I WISH **OUR** MOUNT WASN'T LAME. WE'D BE HOME BY NOW.

I HOPE THERE AREN'T ANY DESERT BANDITS OR SCAVENGERS AROUND, ELISH A.

HUSH. LET'S GET SOME SLEEP.

SHAYGINI! WAKE UP! THOSE BEASTS ARE GETTING CLOSER!

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO? RIAL HAS THE WEAPONS.

WE'VE GOT THIS KNIFE!

I HEAR THEM TOO! WHAT'LL WE DO?

WHATEVER IT TAKES. NOW THAT LISKA'S FREED US I'M NOT GOING TO BE ENSLAVED AGAIN!

AGREED. LET'S FACE THIS OUTSIDE.

I CAN SEE THEM COMING THROUGH THE DUST.

STEADY...

WHOA!

WHEW!

BEHOLD, PYNDAN! WOMEN OF BEAUTY, ALONE IN THE DESERT!

END

"I HAD EXPECTED TO WAKE UP TO THE GREAT COLLECTOR OF SOULS HIMSELF."

"MY HEAD THROBBED AND MY MOUTH WAS AS DRY AS THE DESERT I REMEMBERED LOSING CONSCIOUSNESS IN."

"I OPEN MY EYES TO THE FACE OF AN ANGEL."

"I TRULY MUST BE IN THE NEXT WORLD."

"THIS ANGEL'S BEAUTY WAS ONLY MATCHED BY HER KINDNESS."

"SHE HAD HER HELPER FEED ME AND NURSE ME BACK TO HEALTH."

"AS THE DAYS GREW LONGER, MY STRENGTH RETURNED AND OUR BOND GREW STRONGER."

"SHE TOLD ME HER NAME WAS HESTA, AND ASKED ME HOW I HAD COME TO BE IN THE DESERT WITHOUT A MOUNT."

"I TOLD HER MY STORY OF HOW I HAD BEEN FLUNG OUT OF MY WORLD."

"SHE PROBABLY THOUGHT I WAS INSANE."

"SOON I WOULD GROW STRONG ENOUGH TO TRAVEL. THANKS TO HESTA'S CARE I MADE A QUICK RECOVERY

AND I ACCOMPANIED HER ON HER TRAVELS IN HOPE OF REPAYING HER KINDNESS."

"AS WE WENT FROM STOP TO STOP, OUR FRIENDSHIP GREW."

"SHE WANTED ME TO TEACH HER THE WAYS OF ARMED COMBAT."

"TO MY SURPRISE, SHE WAS QUITE GOOD. BUT FROM TIME TO TIME, I WOULD REMIND-

-HER THAT SHE HAD A LONG WAYS TO GO BEFORE SHE WOULD BECOME AS GOOD AS ME."

"SHE, ON THE OTHER PAW, DIDN'T "ALWAYS TAKE KINDLY TO MY TEASING."

HA! HA! HA!

"ONCE HER ANGER GOT THE BEST OF HER AND SHE ATTEMPTED TO POUNCE ME."

"FORTUNATELY, UNKNOWN TO HER, SHE WAS TEACHING ME A LESSON AS WELL."

"A LESSON IN LOVE."

"AS WE CAME CLOSER AND CLOSER TO THE END OF HER ROUTE, HER MOOD WOULD CHANGE. SHE SEEMED SADDER WITH EVERY STOP."

"I KNEW SHE WOULD RETURN HOME."

"SHE WAS PROBABLY AFRAID OF WHAT HER GUARDIAN WOULD THINK OF ME, A PRINCE NOW TURNED BEGGAR. I WAS NO PROPER SUITOR. I HAD NOTHING TO OFFER HER."

"SO I DECIDED TO PART WITH HER. I TOLD HER I WANTED TO EXPLORE THIS LAND...PERHAPS THE HARDEST LIES I HAD EVER TOLD."

"I WANTED TO STAY WITH HER MORE THEN LIFE ITSELF."

"SHE LEFT THE NEXT MORNING."

"I PAWNED WHAT I HAD, AND ASKED IF THERE WERE ANY TRADERS IN NEED OF HELP."

"I WOULD BEGIN MY JOURNEY OF THIS LAND ALONE, WITH THE HOPES OF SOMEDAY REPAYING MY FATHER FOR HIS 'KINDNESS', AND TO SOMEDAY MEET MY ANGEL AGAIN..."

The End.

Katmandu

STORY: CAROLE CURTIS
ART: MARY HANSON-ROBERTS
LETTERS: TED VOLLMER

WEDDINGS

LISKA MITSEL-EMAN, DO YOU ACCEPT THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVIDE FOOD AND SHELTER, TO GUIDE AND TEACH YOUR CHILDREN IN THE WAYS OF THE EARTH AND SPIRIT?

DO YOU UNDERSTAND ALL I HAVE SAID?

YES.

THEN BEFORE ALL ASSEMBLED, YOU ARE PROCLAIMED HER HUSBAND. GO, AND BE HAPPY.

LISKA, I NEED TO TALK TO YOU.

LITTLE BROTHER, YOU PICK THE STRANGEST TIMES. SHAGIN AND I ARE *SUPPOSED* TO GO TO OUR TENT NOW!

WELL, YOU'RE BOTH WOMEN. IT'S NOT LIKE ANYTHING'S GOING TO *HAPPEN!*

ANYWAY, I WANT TO COURT ELISHAA.

HOW DO *YOU* KNOW?

WHY ASK ME?

SHE'S GOT NO FAMILY HERE EXCEPT YOU AND SHAYGIN.

FINE. YOU HAVE MY PERMISSION. NOW I HAVE TO *GO!* SEE YOU AT THE DANCE TONIGHT.

IT'S COLD TONIGHT, ISN'T IT, MARKREE?

YES, BUT MY BLANKET IS WARM, ELISHAA.

I HEARD YOU PLAYING YOUR FLUTE TODAY.

YES.

DID YOU LIKE IT?

NOW *THERE'S* MY BOLD WARRIOR. YOU WEREN'T SO SHY WHEN YOU *FIRST* SAW ME.

ELISHAA- -I WANT YOU-

YOU *WANT* ME? WHAT FOR? I'M NOT A BED SLAVE ANYMORE. LISKA FREED ME.

I WANT YOU FOR MY WIFE. I WANT YOU TO BEAR MY CHILDREN.

ALL RIGHT, I AGREE. I THINK OUR SON WOULD LOOK HANDSOME WITH OUR MARKINGS.

WHY IS YOUR LIZARD ALREADY SADDLED?

I WAS HOPING YOU WOULD LIE WITH ME UNDER THE STARS TONIGHT.

HOW ROMANTIC.

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE DANCE?

AH SWEET ELISHAA, THERE WILL BE MANY DANCES AHEAD IN OUR FUTURE.

END.